

REMARKS

In the Office action mailed September 15, 2005, the examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-14. This reply amends claims 1, 8-11, and 13 and adds claim 15. As such, claims 1 and 2-15 are pending and under consideration.

I. Interview

On January 9, 2006, the examiner and the applicants' representative met and discussed the current rejections, the prior art, and other aspects of the most recent Office action. The applicants' representative thanks the examiner for conducting the interview and for agreeing to enter and consider this amendment after final.

II. Response to § 102 rejections

The examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,574 ("Kramer"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "determining that the present time is within a warrantee period for the article offered by a party whose identification information is included in the transaction information". Kramer does not teach or suggest anything comparable to this feature. As such, Kramer does not anticipate claim 1.

Kramer does not anticipate claims 8-11 and 13 at least because these claims each contain a feature similar to the feature of claim 1 discussed above. Claims 3-7 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

III. New claim 15

This reply adds claim 15. Kramer does not anticipate this claim at least because this claim contains a feature similar to the feature of claim 1 discussed above.

IV. Response to § 112 rejections

The examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This reply replies to these rejections by amending the claims.

V. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this reply, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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